

As you are aware, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1272 established the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on October 25, 1999. The UNTAET's mandate includes providing security and maintaining law and order throughout East Timor, establishing an effective administration, ensuring the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting capacity-building for self-government. The United States currently contributes three military observers to UNTAET. These personnel are assigned to the United Nations pursuant to the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264), and operate under U.N. operational control.

The United States also maintains a military presence in East Timor that is separate from UNTAET. This includes the U.S. Support Group East Timor (USGET), comprised of approximately 12 U.S. personnel, including a security detachment, which facilitates and coordinates U.S. military activities in East Timor, and a rotational presence of U.S. forces through temporary deployments to East Timor. These rotational presence operations include monthly Navy ship visits and deployments of military medical and engineering teams that conduct humanitarian and civic assistance activities in areas critical to East Timor's citizens. United States forces assigned to USGET and those conducting rotational presence operations operate under U.S. command and control and U.S. rules of engagement. The United Nations has indicated that East Timor has benefited greatly from U.S. military deployments and engagement activities in East Timor and strongly supports the continued U.S. presence there.

At this point, our rotational presence operations are envisioned to continue through December 2001. The duration of our support depends upon the course of events in East Timor. It is, however, our objective to reduce the rotational presence operations, as well as to redeploy USGET, as soon as circumstances permit.

I have authorized the continuation of this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my ef-

forts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 25

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

February 26

The President announced his intention to nominate Hector V. Barretto to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mel Sembler to be President of the Export-Import Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Glenn Hubbard to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisors. Upon confirmation, Mr. Hubbard will serve as the Chairman of the Council.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Francisco Flores of El Salvador at the White House on March 2.

The White House announced that the President invited Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany to the White House for a working visit on March 29.

The White House announced that the President invited President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to the White House for a working visit on April 2.

The White House announced that the President invited King Abdullah II of Jordan

to the White House for a working visit on April 10.

February 27

The White House announced that the President will meet with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson on March 8.

February 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Beaver, PA, where he met with Rev. Donald W. Wuerl, bishop of Pittsburgh.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Omaha, NE, and later, he traveled to Little Rock and North Little Rock, AR.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wade F. Horn to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Family Support.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin Keane to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lee Sarah Liberman Otis to be General Counsel at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter S. Watson to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

March 1

In the morning, the President toured Lakewood Elementary School where he answered questions from first graders in classroom 6, and later, he traveled to Atlanta, GA.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lincoln P. Bloomfield to be Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Viet Dinh to be Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy.

The President declared a disaster in Washington State and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by an earthquake on February 28 and continuing.

The White House announced that the President ordered an increase in the Federal

funding to Arkansas for debris removal in ice storm recovery efforts.

March 2

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Costas Simitis of Greece.

The President announced his intention to nominate Chris Spear to be Assistant to the Secretary of Labor on Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate John B. Taylor to be Under Secretary for the Treasury for International Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland at the White House on March 16.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 26

Mark A. Weinberger,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Jonathan Talisman, resigned.

Submitted February 28

David Aufhauser,
of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, vice Neal S. Wolin, resigned.

John M. Duncan,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Ruth Martha Thomas.